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REMARKS

Applicant cancels claims 4 and 15. Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 16-22 remain pending in the application. Applicant amends claims 1 and 12 to incorporate the respective features of claims 4 and 15 and for clarification. Applicant refers to Fig. 5 and its corresponding description in the specification for an exemplary embodiment of and support for the claimed invention. No new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge Applicant's 35 U.S.C. § 119 priority claim and the receipt of all certified copies of the priority documents for this application. Applicant also requests that the Examiner indicate acceptance of the drawings.

Claims 1, 2, 10-13, 21, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,236,996 to Bapat et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,374,256 to Ng et al.; claims 3 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bapat et al. in view of Ng et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,735,615 to Iwayama et al.; claims 4-9 and 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bapat et al., in view of Ng et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,848,415 to Guck; claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bapat et al., in view of Ng et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,459,779 to Wardin et al.; and claims 5-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bapat et al., in view of Ng et al. and further in view of Wardin et al. and Guck. Applicant amends claims 1 and 12 to incorporate the respective features of claims 4 and 15, and for clarification. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections.

The Examiner conducted a telephone interview with Applicant's undersigned representative, Mr. Dexter Chang (Reg. No. 44,071) on July 14, 2006. Applicant and Mr. Chang

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thank the Examiner for her time and consideration. During the interview, the Examiner discussed the combination of Bapat et al. and Ng et al., and the features recited in claims 4 and 15.

In particular, the Examiner acknowledged that the cited references do not disclose or suggest,

“[a]n apparatus for managing a state of an external apparatus connected thereto, comprising:
a database;
a managed object (MO) managing the state of the external apparatus, the MO being provided in said database and realized by an application, the MO having a table storing information on the state of the external apparatus and a stored procedure defining a method related to the table;
a control interface through which said MO performs outer control of the external apparatus from said database, the interface being provided in said MO; and
a protocol conversion part converting information in a first protocol into a second protocol for transmitting the information between said database and the external apparatus, wherein
the control interface establishes an interface between the MO and the protocol conversion part,” as recited in claim 1.
(Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, together with claims 2-3 and 5-11 dependent therefrom, is patentable over the cited references for at least the above-stated reasons. Claim 12 incorporates features that correspond to those of claim 1 cited above, and is, therefore, together with claims 13-14 and 16-22 dependent therefrom, patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

The above statements on the disclosure in the cited references represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically

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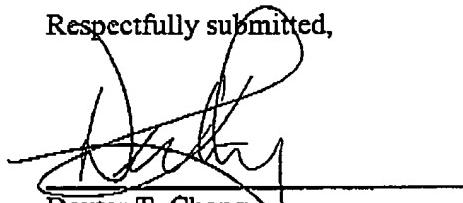
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indicate those portions of the respective reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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